

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 8, 10 and 11 are hereby amended. Claims 1, 10 and 11 are independent. New claims 12 and 13 are hereby added. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, and specifically at pages 18-19, 25-27 and 30-32. No new matter has been introduced. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,918,222 to Fukui et al.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

“A conversation processing apparatus...

...first storage means for storing a plurality of pieces of first information concerning a plurality of topics, the topics being a function of one or more user profiles provided by the apparatus...” (emphasis added)

It is respectfully submitted that the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 5,918,222 to Fukui et al. (hereinafter, merely "Fukui"), as applied by the Examiner, do not teach or suggest the above-identified feature of claim 1. Specifically, Fukui fails to teach or suggest a first storage means for storing a plurality of pieces of first information concerning a plurality of topics, the topics being a function of one or more user profiles provided by the apparatus, as recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

Independent claims 10 and 11 are corresponding method and recording medium claims, respectively, and are believed patentable for similar reasons.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

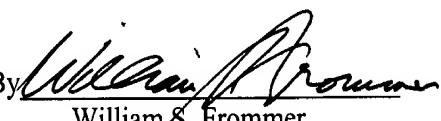
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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